on a simple tree fungus be a historical document? On Oct. 16, at 1 p.m., as part of the Sheldon’s monthly exhibit “Hidden Treasure Series,” Archivist Eva Garcelon-Hart and Middlebury College Professor Bill Hart will discuss a unique rendering of the John Brown farmstead in North Elba, N.Y., on a 19th century tree fungus. The fungus along with several stereographic photographs depicting the Brown cemetery grounds were donated to the Sheldon Museum in 1891 and will be on display through the month of October.

The carving and the photographs illuminate unexpected chapters of national and regional history. John Brown (1800–59), a pious radical abolitionist, is best known for his raid on the federal armory in Harper’s Ferry, Virginia in October 1859 for which he was executed. He is less well known as a founding member and resident of the free Black community, Timbuktoo, near Lake Placid, N.Y. Brown, two of his sons, and several other insurgents are buried together in the family cemetery on the farmstead grounds. Vermont legislature designated October 16, 2017 John Brown Day in his honor.

Free with museum admission. The Sheldon is located at One Park Street in downtown Middlebury across from the Ilsley Library. For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org.

what's on exhibit?


ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN AND EARLY EUROPEAN ART. Ongoing exhibit, highlighting an Egyptian Old Kingdom relief and an early 15th-century Italian panel painting. Lower Gallery at the Middlebury College Museum of Art, 72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury. (802) 443-5007.

ART DECO VERMONT: TRAVEL POSTERS BY KEVIN RUELLE. On view Sept. 6-Oct. 14, featuring the watercolor, oil, charcoal, digital, and mixed work of Kevin Ruelle. Art on Main, 25 Main St., Bristol. (802) 453-4032 or artonmain.net. Walkover Gallery, 15 Main St. Bristol. (802) 453-3188.

BEFORE AND AFTER STONEWALL: QUEER STORIES THROUGHOUT AMERICAN HISTORY. On view through October, featuring queer authors and literary themes in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Davis Family Library, 110 Storrs Ave, on Middlebury College’s campus. (802) 443-3028.


INGRESS. On view for the month of October, featuring collections from landscape artist TJ Cunningham and abstract mixed-media artist Helen Shulman. Edgewater Gallery on the Green, 6 Merchant’s Row, Middlebury. (802) 989-7419 or edgewatergallery.com.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE COMING OUT: A FOUNDATION FOR QUEER ACTIVISM. On view through October, featuring archive materials that celebrate the initiatives of Middlebury College’s LGBTQ activists. Davis Family Library, 110 Storrs Ave, on Middlebury College’s campus. (802) 443-3028.


STEAMBOATS OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN. On view along with other permanent exhibits through Oct. 13, featuring portraits of Jahaziel Sherman, 19th century Lake Champlain steamboat pioneer, and his wife Harriet Daggett Sherman. Learn more about the innovations in steamboat technology that changed the world and were developed right here on Lake Champlain. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes. (802) 475-2022 or lcmm.org.

VOTES... FOR WOMEN? On view Sept. 13-Dec. 8, featuring vintage photographs, banners, and memorabilia that coincides with the 100th anniversary of the campaign to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. Middlebury College Museum of Art, Christian A. Johnson Memorial Gallery, Route 30, Middlebury. (802) 443-5007 or museum.middlebury.edu.

WAITING TO HAPPEN. On view through Oct. 31, featuring 10 new pieces created by Hannah Morris with her signature combination of collage and gouache paint. Northern Daughters Fine Art Gallery, 221 Main St, Vergennes. (802) 877-2173 or northerndaughters.com.